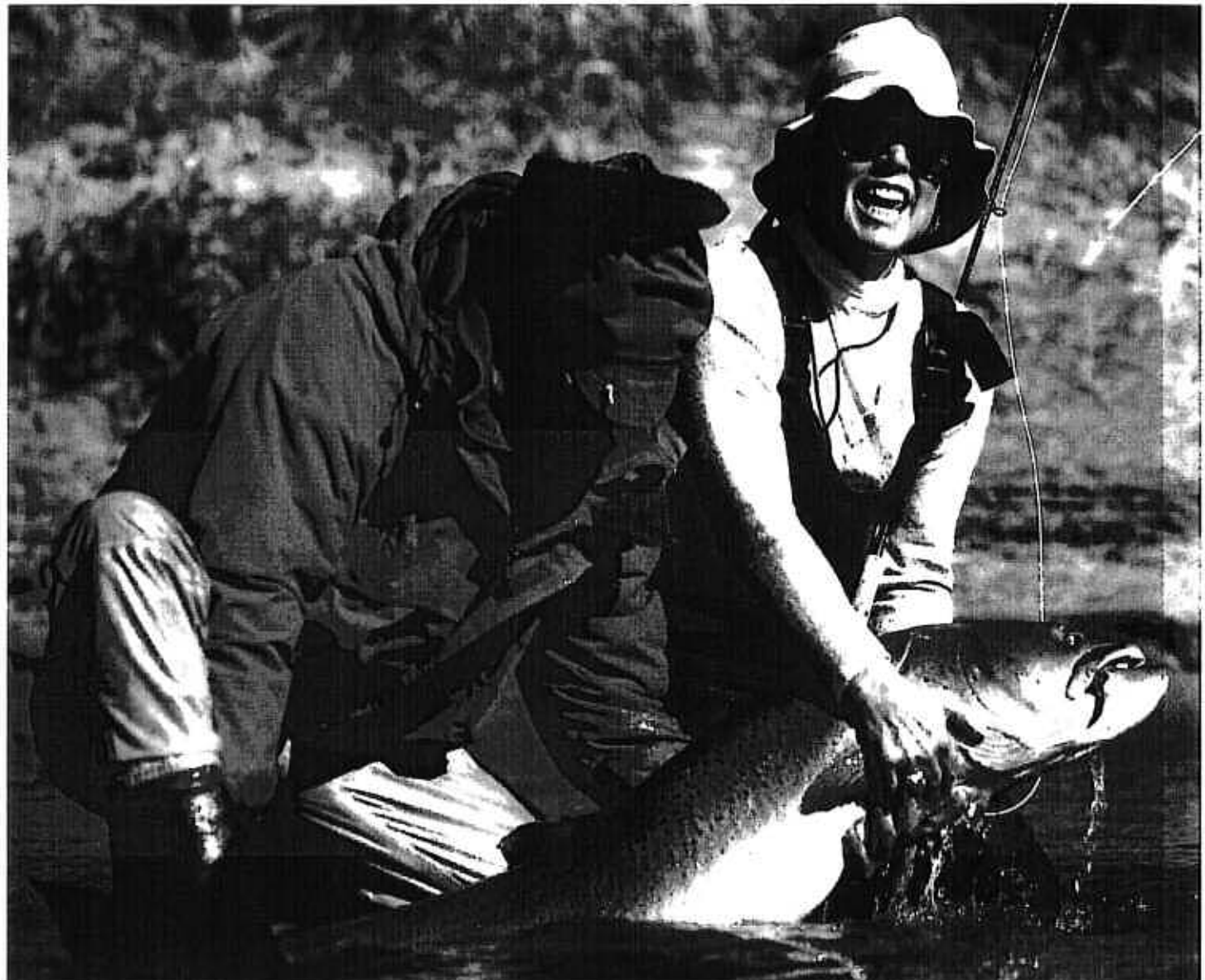


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TROUT

The Catskill Recluse Who Taught American Fly Fishers To Match The Hatch

STEELHEAD

Dec Hogan Shows You How To Make His Smart And Easy Circle Cast

SALMON

Stunning Pictures Of Taimen, The World's Largest Salmonid, In Outer Mongolia

SALTWATER

Something Old, Something New In Killer East Coast Flies For Striped Bass

New water you should try this season

LITTLE LEHIGH CREEK

A premier wild brown trout stream in southeastern Pennsylvania

Not too many years ago, Little Lehigh Creek was just another neglected limestone stream flowing through a corner of Allentown, Pennsylvania, whose banks collected trash and whose currents coddled transient hatchery trout for several weeks each spring. With visions of something better, municipal officials, landowners, and anglers joined forces to successfully clean up and improve natural habitat in this small—but remarkably fertile—coldwater stream.

Since the 1980s, a one-mile stretch of the lower Little Lehigh—from Fish Hatchery Road bridge downstream through a very accessible urban greenway—has been specially managed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as a catch-and-release fishery. Today the tranquil limestone supports a good population of stream-bred wild brown trout, providing interesting fishing to anglers throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

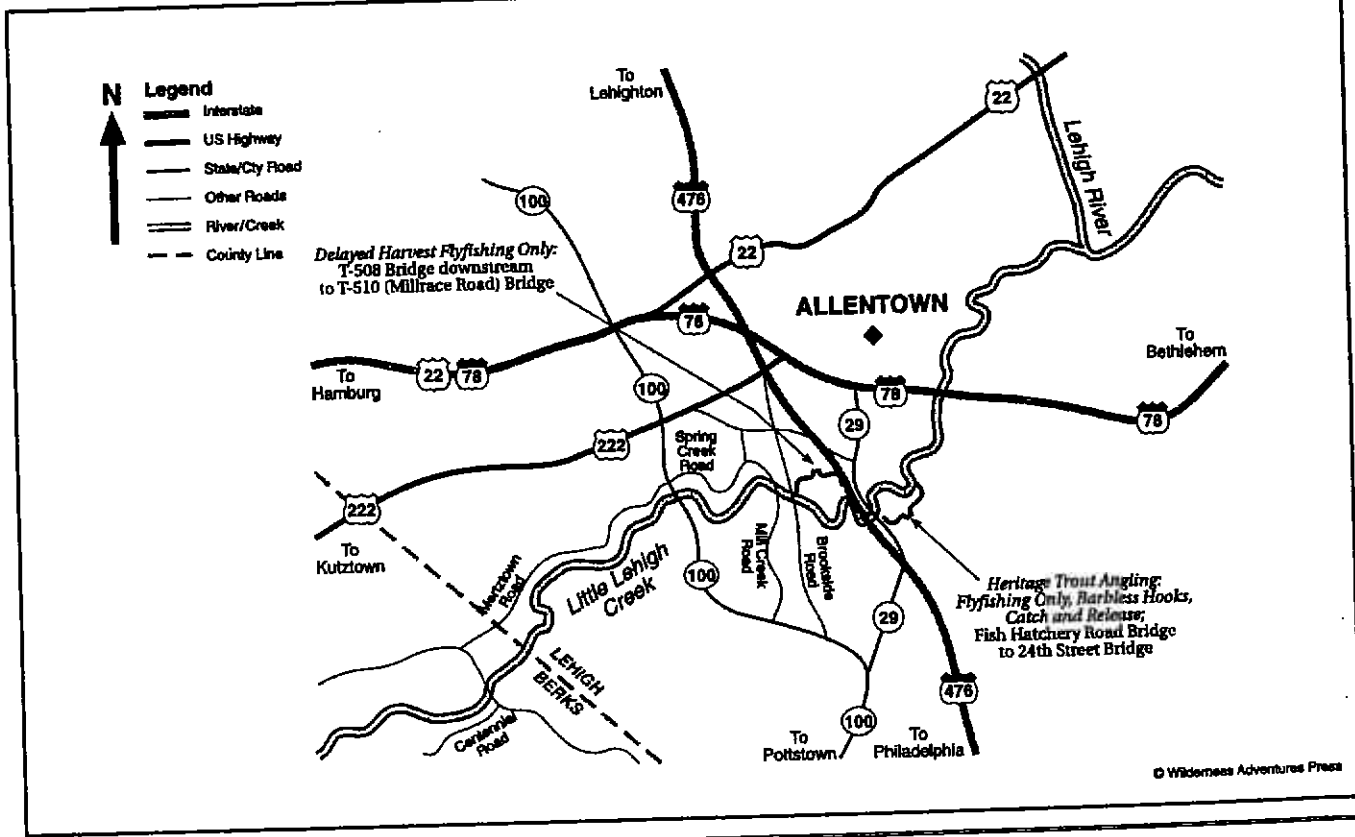
This September and October, come to

Allentown prepared with fly patterns that imitate *Tricorythodes stygiatus*, the tiny whitewinged black mayflies that emerge in late summer and early autumn—gaining the undivided attention of trout—in prodigious numbers on the Little Lehigh. They are size 24. The male Trico duns appear between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m., and “hence,” Rod Rohrback told Fish & Fly dryly, “are not much use to anglers.” Rohrback holds court in a charming limestone-block spring house in the greenway next to the stream off Fish Hatchery Road. The stone house dates from the 1830s. It is now filled with all the accoutrements of a fine fishing tackle store called Little Lehigh Fly Shop.

Rohrback knows his stuff about the sex lives of *Tricorythodes stygiatus*. Surface-film voyeurs with a purpose, he and his trout-seeking friends placed fine-mesh insect nets in the water, examining their contents every hour, for months. The immature female adults or duns emerge at daybreak.



Photo: Perry Beck



They fly into the trees where they mature. Then they join the male spinners, those midnight emergers, to mate over a canopied riffle. Swarms of Tricos, according to Rohrback, comprise females on the bottom of the swam, mating males and females in the center, with all males on top. There's more: After the miniscule mayflies deposit their fertile eggs, female spent spinners fall to the water first, followed by male and female spinners. The last to drop are the lonely males.

Rod Rohrback believes that the primary triggering mechanism for Tricos—the thing that triggers a fish to rise—is the silhouette of the flies' thorax and abdomen. "Once you've got that right," he said, "you don't want any of the secondary characteristics to obscure that trigger. You want the trout to respond to what's right about your fly, not what's wrong."

Little Lehigh regulars know that, after the Tricos have been emerging for a week or so, when a trout rises and sees a standard imitation with stiff white nylon wings, it dives for cover. The solution is a simple but deadly duo called Al's Rat and Al's Trico, creations of a 75-year-old Pennsylvania native and daily fly fisher named Al Miller. Stay out of the willows by making short, accurate casts with an eight-foot rod of soft to medium action to protect your ultrafine tippet. "The difference between fish and no fish here," Rohrback said, "is 6x and 7x. And the difference between fish and lots of fish is 7x and 8x."

USE THESE FLIES BEFORE YOU GO

AL'S RAT (MIDGE PUPA)

AL MILLER

HOOK: TMC 101 straight eye, size 20
BODY: Double-wrapped brown monocrd
THORAX: Tiny bump of loosely dubbed muskrat underfur at front third of hook shank

AL'S TRICO (DUN OR SPINNER)

AL MILLER

HOOK: Mustad 94840, sizes 22-24
BODY: Black thread for male, white for female
ABDOMEN: Bump of dubbed black angora rabbit at rear third of hook shank, through which is wound two or three turns of stiff grizzly hackle



buy some Chernobyl Ants for October fishing, too. Streamer fishing gets better and better as fall progresses. I recommend using a sink-tip line while fishing streamers on the South Fork: There are many deep holes and undercutbanks, and a sink-tip allows you to get down where the fish are consistently. Nymph fishing can also be excellent. The best flies are head heads, egg patterns, and stonefly nymphs.

The weather in October and November is unpredictable. Although days with highs near 70° Fahrenheit are common in November, don't be surprised to find yourself in a snow-storm or two as December approaches.

When fishing in the fall you should always be prepared for the worst where the weather is concerned. As long as you have the proper clothing (including long underwear, fleece, rain jacket, hat and gloves), a cool day or two won't spoil your trip. Dressing properly is key to comfort in the fall. A little cool weather shouldn't spoil your great fishing.

—Shaun Lawson

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Epiphany on the Kispiox

Sometime in late August or early September I'll get my chance, as I do each year, to make a couple of very special back-to-back casts. I get pretty jazzed knowing that my last cast was to a rising, 20-inch wild rainbow trout on the Henry's Fork of the Snake in Idaho, while my next cast, chronologically—separated by 1,300 miles and a day and a half's driving—will be to a wild Kispiox River steelhead, which as easily as not might be a fish of 40 or more inches weighing 25 pounds.

The great thing about these upper Skeena system steelhead is that they are summer-run races, highly active and aggressive well into October. They move well to a fly. There is a pervasive perception, however, that anglers will be rewarded with more and larger fish if they present a fly lashed up to a short leader at the end of a sink-tip line or, worse, a heavy-duty shooting line. It has been my experience that this perception is widely held—and it extends equally to newcomers and veterans of 20 or more years.

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